

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **HINCHEY APPLAUDS SIGNING OF HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today said he was pleased that U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton has signed the management plan for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Hinchey, who wrote the 1996 legislation that created the Heritage Area, has secured over \$3 million for it in the last four federal budget cycles.

"The Hudson Valley has played a uniquely significant role in our nation's history," said Hinchey. "The Heritage Area designation will help to promote and interpret the region's history so that more people will come to appreciate its importance. With the management plan now officially in place, the Hudson Valley Heritage Area can really start moving forward."

Hinchey is the author of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Act, which was signed into law by President Clinton in 1996. Its purposes were to recognize the importance of the history and the resources of the Hudson River Valley to the United States, to assist in preserving, protecting, and interpreting these resources and to authorize federal financial and technical assistance toward those ends. The law directs the managers of the Heritage Area to develop a management plan and authorizes up to \$10 million to be appropriated for the implementation of the plan. As a member of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has secured portions of that funding in recent budget cycles.

In 2000, Hinchey expressed concern about the direction of the management plan and worked with the Heritage Area's management entities, the Greenway Conservancy and the Greenway Council of Communities, to improve it. In particular, Hinchey believed that the earlier draft of the plan was straying from the purpose of the law by failing to concentrate on nationally significant aspects of the region's history and resources.

"I greatly appreciate the Greenway's willingness to work with me on making the management plan a much more effective document," Hinchey added. "The result was a plan that is consistent with the law and that the Secretary could sign. If implemented correctly, the Heritage Area can have profound and enduring benefits for our region."